

DSMC Alumni Association

A World-class Gathering of Acquisition Professionals

NORENE L. BLANCH • COLLIE J. JOHNSON

How would you like routine access to a group of speakers that includes the most influential names in the Department of Defense and industry? Or perhaps you're looking for career advancement, a change of pace, or a more challenging position in the defense industry or government acquisition workforce. It could be you want to broaden your circle of acquisition colleagues and business acquaintances through networking or symposia. You may even wish to take advantage of a large variety of elective courses taught at the Defense Systems Management College (DSMC) Fort Belvoir main campus, absolutely free of charge. You can have all this and more, by simply joining the DSMC Alumni Association or DSMCAA—a first-rate, world-class gathering of acquisition professionals, working actively with you and for you.

The Beginning

More than 60 DSMC graduates, representing virtually every Program Management Course, met at the College in October 1983 and established a DSMC Alumni Association. Army Brig. Gen. Benjamin J. Pellegrini welcomed the group and expressed the support of DSMC management. Joanne Barecca was elected as the first DSMCAA President. She remains a vital force in the Association.

Today, with a membership of over 1,500, the Association is headed by Wayne E. Glass, an ardent supporter and friend of the Defense Systems Management College. Working closely with Edward Robinson, immediate past president and current vice president of

"Being a member of the DSMC Alumni Association gives me the feeling that I am part of something big...I am participating with the people who influence, or, in some cases, generate the policy that is driving the professional acquisition community and its senior leadership..."

—Lyn Dellinger
Vice President for Membership
DSMC Alumni Association



the yearly Program Managers Symposium, Glass runs the Association with advice and counsel from elected officers, a board of directors, board of advisors, Service representatives, and a DSMC Liaison.

Improved Services for Membership Annual Program Managers Symposium. Each summer, the Association

DSMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF ADVISORS. FROM LEFT: AIR FORCE COL. (RET) TIM COURINGTON; NAVY VICE ADM. WILLIAM C. BOWES, PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND ACQUISITION); ARMY GEN. (RET) DONALD R. KEITH; ARMY COL. (RET) ED ROBINSON; ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, ALUMNI CHAIRMAN; ARMY LT. COL. (RET) WAYNE GLASS; AIR FORCE LT. GEN. (RET) BILL THURMAN; DAVID S.C. CHU; AIR FORCE LT. COL. (RET) CHUCK TRINGALI. NOT SHOWN: COLLEEN A. PRESTON, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ACQUISITION REFORM); AND AIR FORCE GEN. LAWRENCE A. SKANTZE.

Blanch is an editorial assistant to the managing editors of Program Manager magazine and Acquisition Review Quarterly journal. Johnson is managing editor, Program Manager magazine. Both work in the Visual Arts and Press Department, Division of College Administration and Services, DSMC.

DSMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESENTS ARMY BRIG. GEN. RICHARD A. BLACK, DSMC COMMANDANT, WITH AN HONORARY MEMBERSHIP IN THE DSMCAA. FROM LEFT: JOANNE BARECCA, DIRECTOR; FRANK VARACALLI, VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS; BLACK; LYN DELLINGER, VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP.



DSMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS. SEATED FROM LEFT: ED ROBINSON, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT AND CURRENT VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SYMPOSIUM; JOANNE BARECCA, DIRECTOR; WAYNE GLASS, PRESIDENT; LYN DELLINGER, VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP; TEL CHARLAND, DIRECTOR. STANDING FROM LEFT: GARY WIMBERLY, DIRECTOR; PAUL BACKS, TREASURER; PAUL McMAHON, DIRECTOR; FRANK VARACALLI, VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS; ARMY COL. WILLIAM E. KNIGHT; CHIP LINNEMAIER, SECRETARY.

focus on using the latitude now offered and encouraged by the new DoD 5000 series and the tools now available in the new Defense Acquisition Deskbook.

As in past years, a select group of panels, workshops, and distinguished speakers will address current acquisition issues:

- Service Acquisition Executives Panel: Acquisition Innovation Results—Bottom Line
- The Acquisition Revolution in Being—Where Do We Go From Here
- Innovative Practices in Federal Acquisition—Implementing Federal Acquisition Reform Act (FARA) and Information Technology Reform Act (ITRA) '96
- Information Technology as a Tool for Innovation in Defense Acquisition

Managers Symposium on the last day. Back by popular demand, this year's job fair is scheduled for the afternoon of 7 May, 1430-1730. (Members need not register for the Symposium to attend the job fair.)

As in previous years, the Acquisition Expo (May 6-7) will feature Service and industry displays of acquisition reform initiatives as well as demonstrations of program management and engineering application tools currently in use throughout DoD. As of this writing, several government and industry displays are already on tap:

Government

- Defense Acquisition Deskbook
- Army Acquisition Corps
- Acquisition Center of Excellence
- Secretary of the Air Force/Acquisition Display
- Defense Logistics Agency Display
- Special Operations Acquisition Center Display

Industry

- BRTRC
- Anser Corporation
- HJ Ford
- MITRE—Collaborative Virtual Workspace (CVW)
- Welcom Software Technology
- C/S Solutions

This year's Acquisition Expo and job fair coordinator is Air Force Maj. Art Greenlee, a DSMC professor of Systems Acquisition in the Principles of Program Management Division. He may be contacted at: (703) 805-4987 or DSN 655-4987.

Membership Eligibility Extended.

The DSMCAA's constitution and bylaws now allow full "regular" membership to graduates of the DSMC's various executive and short courses as well as the College's premier course offering, the Advanced Program Management Course. This important move strengthens the Association.

Reduced Fees. Through a variety of initiatives, over the past year the Association reduced not only its membership

sponsors a three-day symposium to provide an opportunity for graduates and faculty to renew acquaintances and update program management and acquisition skills.¹ This year's 14th Annual Program Managers Symposium will be conducted at the Defense Systems Management College, 5-7 May, 1997. Its theme will be "Implementing Innovative Practices in Defense Acquisition." The theme reinforces the current

- Congressional Update—Review of FARA, ITRA '96, et al
- Program Managers Panel: Innovation in Armed Services/Industry Acquisition Programs
- Full-day Workshops on Timely Acquisition Subjects

Industry Job Fair. About two years ago, the Association added a free job fair to its annual three-day Program

fees (from \$30.00 to \$20.00), but also the price of attending its yearly symposium (from \$275.00 to \$250.00).

Home Page. The Association now has its own DSMCAA Home Page on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.dsmcaa.org/dsmcaa>

Users can apply for membership, and current members can register for Symposium '97 as well as place their qualifications in a DSMCAA-sponsored career opportunities database. In addition to career opportunities, DSMCAA's Home Page also includes:

- Membership Information
- Association Activities
- Association Officers
- Membership Affiliations and Each Association's Upcoming Events
- Continuing Acquisition Education Opportunities
- Current News
- Calendar of Events
- Links to Government and Other Affiliated Home Pages

Access to DSMC Acker Library/Learning Resource Center. Formerly available only to DSMC students, faculty, and staff, Association members may check out resources over the weekend. The Library maintains an extensive collection of books, newspapers, journals, microfilm, and CD-ROM publications in the field of management, with special emphasis on defense systems acquisition management. The Learning Resource Center provides the opportunity for individual, self-paced training or refresher work in subjects related to acquisition management and professional development. It boasts a growing collection of about 4,000 training packages.

DSMC Electives. Space permitting, Association members can enroll in any DSMC elective course offered at the main Fort Belvoir campus, free of charge. According to Vice President for Membership and former DSMC faculty member, Lyn Dellinger, "Interestingly, I think the alumni people really add

to the electives. When they're present, they bring in new experiences and improve the electives...it's a real win-win situation for them and the College."

DSMC Alumni Quarterly Newsletter. This newsletter, published by DSMC professor Paul McMahon, keeps the Association membership informed of current happenings in the defense systems acquisition management field, special events of interest to members, and planned member activities.

Membership Affiliations. Another important advantage of DSMCAA membership is its membership affiliation with other professional acquisition organizations. According to Ed Robinson, "By affiliating ourselves with other professional acquisition associations, we are not only promoting the Alumni Association, but we are also cross-fertilizing our activities and knowledges with other organizations and making us visible to other organizations." The DSMC Alumni Association is currently affiliated with six professional acquisition organizations: National Council on Acquisition Professionalism (NCAP), National Contract Management Association (NCMA), Project Management Institute (PMI), American Project Management Forum (APMF), Performance Management Association (PMA), and Acquisition Reform Communications Center. The membership of all six organizations includes project, contract management, and acquisition professionals whose professional and technical interests parallel those of the DSMCAA membership.

The NCAP, the newest and perhaps lesser known of the six organizations, is an initiative that came out of the office of Steve Kelman, Administrator for the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. It seeks to play an important role in supporting the implementation of the National Performance Review recommendations related to the government's acquisition and acquisition-related activities.

Affiliating the DSMC Alumni Association membership with other professional acquisition organizations also affords members the opportunity to participate in several cooperative ventures, including:

- exhibits, seminars, and meetings (at member rates);
- a limited number of complimentary subscriptions to magazines, journals, and newsletters;
- recognition of educational programs for professional recertification credit;
- promotional advertising; and
- links to affiliated organizations through one another's home pages.

We're Not Through Growing

The Association recently added another chapter to its ranks: the Southern Maryland Chapter, Patuxent River, Md.² Other Association chapters include the Capital Area Chapter, Metropolitan Washington, D.C.; the Dayton Chapter, Dayton, Ohio; and the Tennessee Valley Chapter, Huntsville, Ala. Area chapters offer seminars, meetings, networking, and a forum for initiating member input to defense acquisition matters. DSMCAA stands ready to advise and assist members in other locations who want to start a local chapter.

DSMCAA Awards Program

The DSMCAA Awards Program seeks to recognize three constituencies: the members they serve, the directors who manage the Association's daily affairs, and the broader acquisition community.

USD(A&T) Packard Award. The Association currently works with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition & Technology) to underwrite and share its "Packard Award" for innovative practices in defense acquisition. The award was established in honor of the late David Packard, former Deputy Secretary of Defense and Founder, Defense Systems Management College.

Acker Award. Given to the man or woman who has most influenced the course of acquisition innovation or

reform by his or her skill in communication.

President's Award. An engraved memento given annually by the President of the Board of Directors to a single member of the Board whose contributions have been most highly valued by the President.

Director's Award. This is an "MVP"-type award given to the Board of Directors member, chosen by vote of the full board, who is deemed the "most valuable player."

President's Gavel. A wooden gavel with engraved plate presented annually to the outgoing Association President in appreciation for his or her service.

"Friends of the Association" Awards. These are DSMCAA coins presented to limited numbers of people to recognize contributions "above and beyond."

DSMC 25th Anniversary

The Alumni Association continued its tradition of providing support to DSMC by funding the 25th Anniversary Celebration held at the DSMC, Fort Belvoir campus, June 25, 1996. The Association's financial support for the purchase of pins, cups, and other mementos, added greatly to the success of this event.

We Invite You to Join

From the Alumni Association's rich beginnings, it has worked hard to provide services that reflect the needs and concerns of the acquisition professional. The Program Managers Symposium is just one of the resources made available to Association members. You are invited to become a part of this fine organization, and the DSMCAA is looking forward to seeing all of you at the Symposium.

ENDNOTES

1. See DSMCAA 14th Annual Program Managers Symposium Ad, this page.

2. See "DSMCAA Welcomes Newest Chapter to Southern Maryland," this issue, page 32.

1997 PROGRAM MANAGERS SYMPOSIUM

Implementing Innovative Practices in Defense Acquisition

5-7 May 1997 • DSMC at Fort Belvoir, Virginia

- Service Acquisition Executives Panel:
Acquisition Innovation Results – the Bottom Line
- The Acquisition Revolution in Being —
Where Do We Go From Here?
- Innovative Practices in Federal Acquisition — Implementing
Federal Acquisition Reform Act and Information Technology
Reform Act '96
- Information Technology as a Tool for Innovation in Defense
Acquisition
- Congressional Update - Review of FARA, ITRA '96 et al
- C4I Innovative Acquisition Practices under the DoD 5000
Series
- Program Managers Panel:
Innovation in Armed Services/Industry Acquisition Programs
 - Army Program Manager, ACAT I
 - Navy Program Manager, ACAT II
 - Marine Corps Program Manager, ACAT III
 - Air Force PEO
 - Industry Program Manager
- Free Job Fair
- Full-day Workshops on Timely Acquisition Subjects

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DSMCAA

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